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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ronald H. Chiarello *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/894,423

Group No.: 1636

Filed: 6/28/01

Examiner: Qian, C.

Entitled: **Compositions and Methods for Labeling Oligonucleotides**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)(1)(i)(A)	
I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Dated: <u>December 17, 2003</u>	By: <u>TH W. Brown</u> Thomas W. Brown

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DEC 30 2003
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2003, please amend the application, captioned above, as follows. Filed herewith is a "Petition For A Three Month Extension of Time" [as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)] and a "Petition to Accept An Unintentionally Delayed Claim, Under 35 U.S.C. 120, For The Benefit Of A Prior Filed Application" [as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.78]

An Amendment To The Specification is made by the insertion of the paragraph on page two of this paper.

Amendment To The Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page three of this paper.

Remarks / Arguments begin on page five of this paper.